

**BULLETIN**  
OF THE  
**BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB**

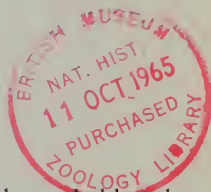
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The six hundred and twenty-seventh meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London, on the 21st September, 1965.

*Chairman: Mr. R. S. R. Fitter*

Members present 21; Guests 4

The speakers, Sir Landsborough Thomson and Mr. Stanley Cramp have kindly provided the following accounts of their respective communications:—

### **Orthography of the name *Ammoperdix heyi* (Temminck)**

*by A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON*

In an editorial capacity I have recently been challenged about the spelling "*heyi*", in the name *Ammoperdix heyi* (Temminck), on the supposed ground that the author had intended to name the species after someone called HAY, and that the original name thus contained a *lapsus* requiring emendation to "*hayi*" as allowed by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. In fact, when Temminck (1825) gave the name "*Perdix Heyi*" he did so expressly in honour of a collector called HEY, and there is abundant evidence that the personal name was so spelt. Thus, no *lapsus* and no occasion for emendation.

Although the correct spelling "*heyi*" is used in most modern works, the other is common in the older literature and it is apt to be resuscitated from time to time. It therefore seems desirable to put a full statement on record, however trivial the point at issue. Moreover, as a cautionary tale it is not without interest!

In unravelling the development of the misunderstanding, I have relied to a large extent on the synonymy published by Ogilvie-Grant (1893); I am also indebted to R. Lévêque and C. J. O. Harrison (personal communications) for certain references. The main steps seem to have been as follows:

(1) Gray (1844) was the first to vary the specific name, in the combination "*Caccabis Heyii*", but as he misquotes Temminck as having used this spelling it may have been merely a slip. It may, on the other hand, have represented a preference for a different way of latinizing the German personal name; but in any event the emendation is not permissible, so this variant, although it has been copied by others, is really

irrelevant. Incidentally, Gray used the English name "Hey's Partridge"; others have done so since, but more commonly the bird shares with its sole congener the names "Sand-partridge" and "See-see".

(2) More to the point is that Rüppell (1845) was apparently the first to misspell the specific name with an "a", in the combination "*Ptilopachus Hayi*". This was in a mere list and can only have been a slip, as Rüppell (1835) had earlier used Temminck's name "*Perdix Heyi*" and he was thoroughly familiar with its derivation. HEY in fact did all his collecting as a junior member of Rüppell's expedition of 1822–27, and Rüppell stated that it was from himself that Temminck had received the particular specimens ("von mir erhalten Exemplaren"). He also rather sourly mentioned that his own suggestion of "*P. flavirostris*" (Ms. name) had been arbitrarily ("willkürlich") passed over by Temminck. I am informed by Professor R. Mertens (personal communication through Dr. J. Steinbacher, Frankfurt a. M.) that the misspelling HAY very occasionally occurs in Rüppell's manuscript letters and memoranda, but that the personal name is in these normally given as HEY (standardised in the published version).

(3) Heuglin (1873) used the name "*Ammoperdix hayi*" and imported much confusion into the synonymy by misquoting Temminck, and also Rüppell in 1835, as having used "*Perdix Hayii*" (*sic*), when they had written "*Heyi*"; and further by misquoting himself as having used "*Ptilopachus Hayi*" in 1856, when in fact he had then written "*Heyi*". He also attributed "*hayi*" to at least three other authors (a complete check has not seemed worth making) who in fact used "*heyi*".

(4) Hartert (1921) retained "*Ammoperdix heyi*" although saying that the bird had been "von Hay, Rüppells Begleiter und Praeparator gesammelt". He was aware that other spellings had been used ("Name später in *Hayi* und *Heyii* verbessert"), and it was presumably what he took to be a deliberate emendation by Rüppell (1845) that put him wrong about the personal name. That he did not accept the emendation in the scientific name reflects the deviationist view in favour of immutable original orthography that had a vogue at the time.

(5) Stresemann (1938) was misled by Hartert's error in the personal name into stigmatising the retention of "*heyi*" as pedantic: "fährt man in geistloser Pedanterie fort . . . *Ammoperdix heyi* statt *hayi* zu schreiben". The principle is unexceptionable, but the particular example was unfortunate. I am indebted to him (*in litt.* 1965) for the information that the source of his misunderstanding was Hartert, who is not actually mentioned in the publication. I am also grateful to Professor Stresemann for a reference to the biography of Rüppell by Mertens (1949), in which much information about HEY is to be found that probably was not widely available before.

Earlier information about HEY was given by Temminck, who stated that the two specimens figured (male and female) were "tués par M. Hey dans les déserts à Acaba en Arabie". He then went out of his way to show how deserving the collector was of being immortalised in avian nomenclature: "Les dangers affronté par M. Hey dans le seul but de se rendre utile: les courses périlleuses entreprises pour faire des découvertes

dans une terre jadis classique transformé aujourd'hui en un désert affreux, sont des titres que nous nous faire valoir et auxquels l'hommage d'une dédicace répond d'une manière très faible relativement au mérite personnel''.

That might have served as an epitaph, but in truth the collector cuts a much less heroic figure when seen at close range through the eyes of Rüppell, as recorded in memoranda and letters quoted by Mertens. HEY was a Rüdesheim "surgeon" in his early twenties when he joined Rüppell's expedition, and he died only ten years later. His sole impact on natural history was during the five years spent working with or under Rüppell (who was four years older and lived to be ninety). Rüppell later regretted not having repatriated HEY after the first year, soon finding him unsatisfactory in his work and excessively addicted to alcohol. In these circumstances it was a cause of irritation to Rüppell that in Germany he and HEY were regarded as equals and friends. Rüppell was particularly offended by a picture (reproduced by Mertens) in which the two men were portrayed together, with HEY in a dominant pose. Rüppell waxed sarcastic about this, suggesting that his own likeness should be deleted from the canvas and replaced by a gigantic brandy-bottle; and that underneath should be inscribed the words "Ecce homo"!

None of this, however, constitutes a reason why the collector should suffer the posthumous indignity of having the correct spelling of his name relegated needlessly to the synonymy.

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## Toxic chemicals and wildlife

by STANLEY CRAMP

Toxic chemicals have led to considerable, if sometimes overstated, gains in agriculture, as well as improvements in public health, and many, including most of the herbicides, are not a serious danger to wildlife. Conservationists are not opposed to all chemicals, but mainly to two groups—the organophosphorous compounds and, above all, the organochlorines, which are highly persistent, passing from one animal in the food chain to another, often concentrating in the process, and, in sub-lethal quantities,